GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1629
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2007
STUDY ON CHOLERA
Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central Member Team was sent to Assam to study the recent outbreak of Cholera;

(b) if so, the main observations and suggestions made by the Central Team; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) & (b) Yes, a Central team comprising of officials from National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) and National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED), Kolkata visited Assam to investigate an outbreak of Acute Gastroenteritis in Padumphukuri area of Uznabazar, Guwahati.

The main observation of the Central Team was that the outbreak of Cholera was due to contaminated water and unsafe disposal of excreta in the affected area. The team suggested improvement of surveillance activities and provision of safe drinking water.

(c) Health being a State subject, the action by State Government of Assam included:

Response by the civil authorities/ local health authorities by setting up a 24 hour Medical Camp in the affected area including ambulance facilities.

Investigation for water and stool samples by the Local Agencies which yielded Vibrio cholerae from the affected cases. All 3 water samples failed in presumptive coliform testing.

Repair/replacement of defective pipelines of water supply of Guwahati Municipal Corporation in the affected areas.

Super chlorination of drinking water source.